

[0015] In order to accomplish the above and other objects, there is provided a portable communication apparatus including a central housing; a first housing rotatably coupled to the central housing about a first hinge axis in such a manner that the first housing is movable closely to or remotely from the central housing; a second housing rotatably coupled to the central housing about a second hinge axis, which is parallel to the first hinge axis, in such a manner that the second housing is movable closely to or remotely from the central housing/first housing while facing the first housing on the basis of the central housing; and a means for supporting the first and second housings such that side portions of the first and second housings make contact with each other after the first and second housings have rotated by a predetermined angle, thereby maintaining the first and second housings and the central housing in a tri-column structure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0016] The above and other objects, features, and advantages of the present invention will be more apparent from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

[0017] FIGS. 1 is a front perspective views illustrating a wide-type portable communication apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0018] FIG. 2 is a plan view of FIG. 1;

[0019] FIG. 3 is a back perspective view illustrating a wide-type portable communication apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0020] FIG. 4 is a perspective view illustrating a procedure for installing a wide-type portable communication apparatus in a tri-column structure according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0021] FIG. 5 is a perspective view illustrating a wide-type portable communication apparatus installed in a tri-column structure according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

[0022] FIG. 6 is a perspective view illustrating a wide-type portable communication apparatus encased in a leather case together with a portable keyboard according to an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0023] Hereinafter, preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings. In the following description of the present invention, a detailed description of known functions and configurations incorporated herein will be omitted when it may make the subject matter of the present invention rather unclear.

[0024] As illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 3, a portable communication apparatus according to the present invention can be installed in a tri-column structure, thereby enabling a user to conveniently view data displayed in a display unit. That is, the portable communication according to the present invention enables the user to conveniently watch moving pictures, such as television, video-on-demand, and satellite broadcasts. The tri-column structure signifies that the

portable communication apparatus includes three housings connected to each other in a triangular column pattern. Accordingly, the user can stably install the display unit in a transverse direction thereof.

[0025] More specifically, the portable communication apparatus according to the present invention includes a central housing 100, a first housing 200 rotatably connected to a first end portion 101 of the central housing 100, a second housing 300 rotatably connected to a second other end portion 102 of the central housing 100, and a support unit that enables first end portions 201 and 301 of the first and second housings 200 and 300 to contact each other, such that the tri-column structure can be maintained.

[0026] As illustrated in FIG. 1, preferably, a single speaker 312 is provided at an upper portion of the second housing 300, a window 314 is positioned below the single speaker 312 and a plurality of keys 316 are aligned below the window 314. The window 314 is made from a transparent material, thereby enabling a user to view data displayed in a display unit of the first housing 200 through the window 314.

[0027] As illustrated in FIG. 3, the central housing 100 is provided at a back surface thereof with a camera lens 120, a pair of illumination devices 121 and 123 adjacent to the camera lens 120, and a battery pack 124 adjacent to the camera lens 120.

[0028] Referring to FIG. 4, the first housing 200 is provided at a front surface thereof with a display unit 220, a speaker unit adjacent to the display unit 220, and a single key 226 adjacent to the speaker unit. The speaker unit includes a first speaker 222 provided at one side of the display unit 220 and a second speaker 224 provided at the other side of the display unit 220 in order to generate stereophonic sound in a vertically upward direction of the first housing 200.

[0029] Referring back to FIG. 2, a second end portion 202 of the first housing 200 is bent, preferably, at a right angle. In addition, a second end portion 302 of the second housing 300 is also bent, preferably, at a right angle. A first hinge axis A1 extends along the first end portion 101 of the central housing 100 and the second hinge axis A2 extends along the second end portion of a connection arm 250 coupled to the first end portion 101 of the central housing 100. Therefore, when the first and second housings 200 and 300 are closed with respect to the central housing 100, the first housing 200 is placed on the central housing 100 and the second housing 300 is placed on the first housing 200.

[0030] Referring to FIGS. 2 and 4, the support unit includes a recess 210 formed along the first end portion 201 of the first housing 200 and a protrusion 310 provided along the first end portion 301 of the second housing 300 corresponding to the recess 210. After opening the first and second housings 200 and 300 from the central housing 100 by a predetermined angle, if a user places the protrusion 310 in the recess 210, the first and second housings 200 and 300 form a tri-column structure together with the central housing 100. Further, in this state, the central housing 100 is aligned at a bottom of the tri-column structure and the first and second housing 200 and 300 are slantingly aligned on the central housing 100. therefore, the display unit 220 is aligned in a transverse direction and the first and second